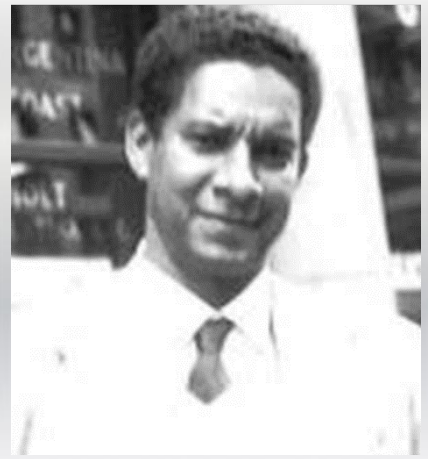
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



George H.Q. Chambers

Football

Inducted in 2000

Hailed as Trinidad and Tobago's first modern football coach, George Chambers was a dazzling winger, opening bowler, thinker, motivator and visionary. Residing in Belmont, east Port of Spain, Chambers attended the Belmont Boys RC School before entering Queen's Royal College (QRC) where his sporting talent would flourish. He rose through the ranks quickly, becoming a starting player of both the QRC football and cricket teams, doing the double in 1933 of winning the national schools' titles for both sports. From 1934-1935 he was captain of both squads, while also being called up to represent the North cricket team as a fast bowler, though he was still a schoolboy.

It was in football though, that he truly shone, with a preferred position on the right wing or on the inside right. He joined the powerful Maple club, where his skill continued to develop, and football became his sole focus. By 1936 he was called up to the national team, and the following year he was on the boat to Suriname to play against a team that Trinidad and Tobago sometimes struggled to break down.



With Chambers darting in from the right, Trinidad and Tobago earned a 3-0 win abroad thanks to his incredible hat-trick of goals.

Throughout, Chambers remained a keen student of football, with an early interest in the various styles adopted by different countries and a few ideas of his own that he sought to implement. After touring British Guiana as a national player in 1946, Chambers decided to concentrate full-time on coaching.

In 1950 he attended coaching courses in England at the sporting hub of Loughborough as well as Leeds and Birmingham. His research was not just theoretical, it consisted of travelling to countries and gaining firsthand knowledge of a style of football that was yet to be introduced to local game. In 1953 he became coach of the Dynamos Club and got immediate results when they won the 2nd Division championship. Chambers then went to Grenada to coach their national squad in 1956, before a stint at the helm of St. Lucia's football team.

In 1958 his technical genius was on full display when Dynamos played a 4-2-4 formation, which was an alien concept at the time, and they again won the 2nd Division and earned promotion to the 1st Division.

Playing in the top tier, Chambers led the team to the BDV Cup in 1961 and the FA Trophy a year later. Noting the Dynamos success, the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association made Chambers the national coach in 1964 for a tour to Guyana, where the team earned four wins and a draw under his direction.

Later, Chambers would produce several manuals about the art of football, one of which, The Manual of Deception for Young Soccer Players, has been described as a 'footballer's bible'. He formed his own team, Honved, made up of 1st Division players, that he took around Trinidad to host coaching clinics based on exhibition matches.

Chambers changed the way the game was played in Trinidad and Tobago, with other coaches emulating his 'total football' approach. Chambers once summed up his ethos: "Our aim is to pursue a relentless and unceasing striving for mastery of the ball, until we can emulate and even surpass the perfect ball control, the fire, the fury and technical brilliance of the famous Brazilian teams; until the onlooker would think the ball tied on to a string".

Outside of football, Chambers worked at Customs & Excise for over 40 years, providing sterling service, just as he had done in sport. In the year 2000, George 'Joffre' Chambers was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.